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11 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Complaints of a Former Employee

1. At a hearing of the CIA Subcommittee of Senate Armed Services on 8 August 1958, Senator Russell stated that he was the recipient of many criticisms of the Agency and specifically he had received within the past three months complaints from a former employee of the Agency.

2. The complaint appeared to be a four or five page single spaced typewritten memorandum. Both Senators Russell and Saltonstall indicated that it was their duty to inquire into these things. Senator Russell further stated that the individual concerned had wanted a hearing before the Agency on these complaints. The Director said he would be glad to do it at any time. Senator Russell stated he did not know who the individual was and had not inquired although it was indicated that he had worked for the Agency for several years.

3. Senator Russell then proceeded to discuss the charges on a point by point basis as follows:

25X1 a. It was charged that project outlines in all other intelligence services were discussed with the agent so he would know his mission. However, in CIA the outlines, if any were drawn, were extremely vague and rarely, if ever, discussed with the agent.

25X1 b. It was charged that there was scant or no briefing for agents. They were required to read Handbook for Spies by Alexander Foote. They were then instructed to destroy this after reading although the book comes in a 25 cent paperback edition. The DCI indicated that he knew Foote and that his book might well be suggested reading. General Cabell pointed out that if an agent were to operate in a foreign country it would not be desirable to have a book about spies in his possession.

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c. There was a charge of grossly inadequate training at

It was charged that the thirty-day course resulted in a high percentage of the trainees quitting. It was further charged that only one out of seven instructors had ever been in the field.

d. A general charge concerning lack of language qualifications of CIA personnel. Specifically it was charged that the

could not speak the language and as a result two major honors were pulled. The DCI discussed our language program in some detail referring to the fact that we had sent a copy of the program to Senator Saltonstall in recent months.

e. There was a charge of laxity of inspection and that the Inspector General up to two years ago had no jurisdiction over the matter of accounting for funds.

f. The termination authority of the DCI was then discussed, charging that it was used in an arbitrary fashion and that if review boards were constituted they performed in a perfunctory fashion.

g. There were charges of threats to employees if malfeasance within the Agency were to be revealed.

4. The Director in strong language stated that these charges were false and, in his opinion, were malicious lies. The Director, as each point was raised, commented on the efforts being made by the Agency in the various fields covered. The Director strongly indicated that he would welcome a discussion with the individual concerned.

cc: DCI
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(2)
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